NEWS & NOTES

THE VOICE OF PROBUS IN THE WEST

WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER 2026 EDITION of NEWS and NOTES



National Probus Month: October
Probus clubs will celebrate across the country with a National Day of Picnics and lunches, to acknowledge 50 years of Probus in Australia.

The first Probus Club in Australia was established by the Hunters Hill Rotary Club in NSW on 3rd February 1976. It continues to provide connections for seniors in retirement. It was for Rotarians who reached retirement age and wished to continue the social aspect of Rotary. However, Probus is not a fundraising organisation, but a social club for retirees.

Probus first arrived in Western Australia in **1982**, when the first 19 WA clubs were established. In May 1984 in WA, nineteen clubs met and resolved to form the Probus Association of WA Inc (PAWA) and a committee was formed under the chairmanship of Fred Carden. The aim was to connect local clubs as they felt somewhat isolated from the Probus Centre-South Pacific in Sydney due to the distance from WA.

Fred Carden was elected in November 1984 as the inaugural PAWA President. PAWA was the first state association in Australia and was formed to advise and supply relevant information to Probus clubs in WA. PAWA does not dictate to clubs on their day-to-day management.

Over the years the PAWA Management Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting, has continued to meet monthly, either face-to-face or via zoom. Thanks are extended to the many Probians who have contributed their time and efforts on the Management Committee to help ensure the success of Probus in WA.

PASTA in the VALLEY Friday 30th October 2026 at 12md
2931 West Swan Rd Caversham

We hope to see your club represented at this outing as it has been very well attended in the past. Ask your secretary for a senior's meal form. Alternatively, a la carte meals can be ordered and paid for on the day.

Remember, seniors' meals must be booked and paid for in advance by 20th October.

Sue Harwood
President.

PAWA NEEDS YOU!!

PAWA plays a vital role in representing West Australian clubs!!:

- ◊ **By assisting clubs to remain sustainable and to enjoy the fun, friendship and fellowship that Probus provides.**
- ◊ **By providing local support, advice, guidance, education and resources that benefit clubs.**

We invite interested members from clubs to contribute new ideas and bring valuable experience to the role of the PAWA committee. Every club can nominate two members with one member holding voting rights.

You will be able to be involved in Building Better Clubs Workshops, so why not join the team of like-minded Probians and share your expertise and knowledge and become an effective voice of PAWA?

You will be helping the Probus family to thrive.

Contact the PAWA Secretary, Margaret Collins: pawasecretary@gmail.com

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Yanchep Two Rocks Probus Club Incorporated	10 years
Baldivis Probus Club Inc	11 years
The Probus Club of Bannister Creek Inc	27 years
The Combined Probus Club of Attadale Inc	28. years
The Ladies Probus Club of Booragoon WA (Inc)	38 years
Rossmoyne Probus Club WA Inc	41 years.
The Probus Club of Kalamunda Inc	43 years





PAWA is planning more workshops in 2027.
42 clubs participated this year,
3 more than last year.

These workshops are free*! We invite clubs to participate to enjoy the networking with other clubs. In particular, the breakout sessions allow everyone to contribute and share ideas and experiences. The Committee members are there to facilitate each group. PAWA advocates for long-term sustainability for clubs, with guidance, information, education and the provision of resources.*
The goal is to strengthen club operations and share good practice.

Current, new and potential committee members and new club members will benefit from attending one of these workshops.

PROBUS ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Save The Date

INVITATION

to WA Probus Clubs

Monday 22nd February 2027

PINJARRA TROTS

The Home of Real Horse Power!

Pinjarra Harness Racing Club
7 Paceway Court Pinjarra

ATTENDANCE LIMITED TO 200

1130am

$37pp*

Includes:

- Race booklet for guests
- Roast of the day
- Dessert of the day
- Drink voucher
- Mystery bet voucher

** to be confirmed*

PROBUS INTEREST GROUPS – A SIMPLE NOTE FOR CLUBS

Interest Groups are good for Probus and should be encouraged. In most cases, a simple Committee approval, a sensible look at any risks and confirmation of the insurance position will be all that is needed.

They give members a chance to enjoy shared interests, make new friends and spend time together outside the regular Club meeting. Walking, cards, mahjong, books, movies, dining, photography, golf, craft and gardening are just some possibilities.
There is no need to make Interest Groups complicated.

The main thing is to be clear about the difference between

- **a private activity involving Probus members and**
- **an official Probus activity.**

When does an Interest Group become a Probus activity?

If a group uses the Probus name, is promoted by the Club, appears in the Club calendar or newsletter, or is otherwise presented as a Probus activity, it should be approved by the Management Committee. This can be a simple decision recorded in the Committee minutes. Members are of course free to get together privately. Six members meeting for coffee or playing golf together does not necessarily require Committee approval. The situation changes if it becomes "the Probus Coffee Group" and is promoted as a Club activity.

The main thing to watch – insurance

The biggest concern is insurance. Don't assume that an activity is insured simply because everyone taking part is a Probus member.
The Club should know whether the activity is an approved Probus activity and whether it falls within the applicable insurance arrangements. This is particularly important for activities such as cycling, bushwalking, swimming, boating, fishing and exercise, where the risks may be greater. If there is any doubt, check before the activity goes ahead.
The Committee does not need to eliminate every possible risk. It simply needs to consider whether an activity presents unusual or significant risks and whether reasonable precautions are appropriate. A book group is obviously very different from cycling on public roads.

A couple of other things to remember

Interest Groups should not independently spend Club money, enter contracts, make financial commitments, open bank accounts or conduct fundraising in the Club's name. Those matters remain the responsibility of the Management Committee.
Interest Groups can also be a great way to introduce prospective members to Probus. However, Clubs should know who is participating and should not assume that non-members automatically have the same insurance protection as members.

The simple rule

- **Private activity = members' responsibility.**
- **Probus activity = Management Committee responsibility.**

50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Over two hundred Probus members and a few invited guests got together on October 1st to celebrate 50 years of Probus in Australia with a picnic on the waterfront in Mandurah.

Convenor and PSPL Director, Brian Hoult, welcomed the guests and members to the event. During the morning, everyone enjoyed tea or coffee with finger food. Tables were set up at the Oceanic Bar and Grill alongside the water at Dolphin Quay. There was an opportunity to play games and mingle with other club members. Some lucky members took home door prizes of chocolates and meal vouchers.

Below, the Mandurah Island Choir sang for us during the morning.



ROSSMOYNE LADIES PROBUS CLUB

A group of ladies from the Rossmoyne Ladies Probus Club have been meeting every Friday morning at the Mt Henry Bridge 9.30am. We have enjoyed taking part in the Virtual Walk Albany to Geraldton, enjoying the exercise, the coffee break and the camaraderie.



We walk most weeks from the bridge to the Dome – stop for a coffee and chat – and then walk back to the bridge. If it is raining, we do several laps around the bridge which is undercover.
We have currently walked 566 kilometres and on the virtual walk we have walked from Albany past Ledge Point and are now heading to Dongara, hoping to arrive in Geraldton by the end of October.

Growing your membership



Probus Clubs provide connection, purpose and belonging. It is important that clubs focus on member retention by providing a range of activities and interests that keep members engaged. Even if your club is full, it is important to Involve your members in membership growth as there will inevitably be changes in lifestyle.

The more often people walk into your Club, the more likely they are to join and a strong welcome creates long-term loyalty.

Word of mouth has been proven to be a good way to introduce new members but there are other ways.

- Community announcements in local newspapers and on local community radio.
- Community noticeboards.
- Local Council Community Directories.
- Membership drives at your local shopping centre.
- Facebook page.
- Host an open day with a guest speaker.
- Follow up and keep in touch with visitors.

1. **Focus on:**
   What makes your club unique!
   - How your club contributes to the community.
   - The experiences members gain from being involved.
   - Programs, events and opportunities that enrich members' lives.

2. **New Members**
   When new members feel seen and supported, they're more likely to stay engaged.
   - Personal introductions to committee members.
   - Ensure new members feel comfortable.
   - Have a buddy system for social activities.

3. **Newsletters**
   Tell stories that highlight:
   - Member achievements
   - Photos of club life and activities.
   - Volunteer spotlights
   - Community impact

Bali 2026 with the Probus Club of Mandurah Peel Inc

Carol Hoult. Probus Club of Mandurah Peel Inc

Recently, 16 members of our Mandurah Peel Probus club headed to Bali for a well-earned rest from our busy retired lives. One of the interest groups our club has is the International Travel Group. Once a year we head overseas on a group adventure. Oops, this year we did it twice as we also travelled to South Africa in May.

Our intrepid leaders Annie and John ensure that the group dot their "I's "(insurance, visa's, insect repellent) and cross our "T's" (travel card, telephone e sim and tipping money) before we leave and keep a sharp eye on the group so we don't stray too far.



In Bali we all stayed at a beachside resort in Sanur. While we straggled down to breakfast each morning, we met up for a sundowner each evening before deciding on where to eat – sometimes together other times in small groups.
The girls went off to a craft shop, the boys a fishing shop. Some of us visited the shopping centres in the area, walked through the markets, grabbed a bargain, lazed around the pool and chilled out.

A day trip to Ubud was enjoyed by those who went along, with a lovely lunch and a spectacular ride on a zip line for one crazy person. A cooking class expanded our culinary skills as did the visit to the local market.

Left: The cooks at work.

The trip came to a close too soon as our weary group headed home to Perth. Did I say we went to Bali to rest and relax? Perhaps we need to try again next year! Speaking of next year, Annie has organised another trip this time to Sri Lanka. Annie and John have been organising these trips for many years and they are always fantastic. It's a great way for members to travel, safe in the knowledge that they have friends with them to share the fun of adventure.

Below Mt Batur



RISK MANAGEMENT-email or phone SCAMS

Does your club help members to identify scams?

Help members understand scams by encouraging them to visit the following websites: http://www.scamwatch.gov.au
Seniors are often targeted by scammers through fake phone calls, text messages, and door knocks. Common tricks include pretending to be from government agencies, family members in trouble, or tech support. Always stop and check the source.

Common Scams to Watch

- **Family Scams:** A caller pretends to be a family member in trouble and begs for urgent wire transfers or gift cards.
- **Government Imposters:** Callers claim to be from Medicare, or law enforcement, threatening arrest or loss of benefits unless you pay immediately.
- **Tech Support Pop-ups:** A fake warning message freezes your computer and tells you to call a number for remote-access repairs.
- **Romance Scams:** Con artists build fake online relationships to slowly manipulate victims into sending money.

Slow down:

Scammers create a false sense of panic to stop you from thinking clearly.

- **Hang up and call back:** Use a trusted, official phone number from a bill or contact list—never the number the caller provided.
- **Never give remote access:** Do not let an unsolicited caller control your computer or phone.
- **Keep payment private:** Never pay with gift cards to resolve a sudden emergency.

BUS HIRE or CAR POOLING



- Understand the terms and conditions of bus hire, particularly if excesses are payable in the event of an accident. Consider travel insurance.

- Ensure persons providing cars for car-pooling understand that the National Insurance cover does not provide for damage to motor vehicles as this is covered by the vehicle's insurance.

- Seek assurance from the owner of the vehicle being used that the vehicle is roadworthy and the driver is suitably qualified to drive and has a current license. An email confirmation is suggested.

Wildflower Bus Trip – Mandurah Island Probus Club

On 21 September MIPC went on its first wildflower trip for a long time and we were fortunate to have wildflower expert Ann Newman as our guide. We visited Noble Falls and the Julimar Conservation area. Unfortunately for various reasons we ran out of time to visit other hot spots.



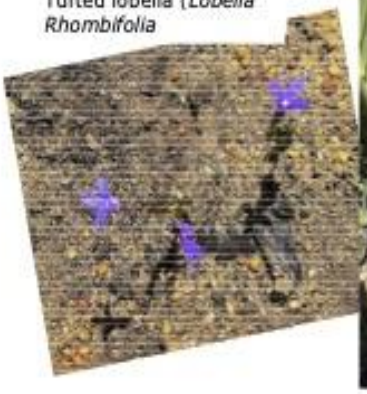
Several people wanted to see orchids but we only saw one species in flower, however there were signs of other species that had been in flower earlier this season. To the left is a Vanilla orchid (*Thelymitra antennifera*).



To the right are some sundew plants, which are only a few centimetres across. They are carnivorous plants that capture insects on their sticky leaves and engulf them with their spikes. They are known as the pimpernel sundew or scarlet sundew (*Drosera glanduligera*).

Peter Engler

Tufted lobelia (*Lobelia Rhombifolia*





Male zamia palm *(Macrozamia riedlei)*



Purple Tassels (*Sowerbaea laxiflora*)

Blue lechenaultia (*Lechenaultia biloba*)





Mandurah Island Probus Club Inc.



A welcome from Hosts Vic & Diana Whelan





Guest Speaker Eleanor Venebles instructing members on chair yoga.
Tricia Engler presented Eleanor with an appreciation Certificate & pen.



Special Birthdays Gillian Rose with Glenda MacKay & Di Silver



Go the Dockers! Unfortunately it was not the result they wanted.





A happy winner and smiles all round





Australia Day in *Sydney*

6 Days | 22 to 27 January 2027

Celebrate Australia Day in the nation's most iconic city. This cultural escape blends rich history, stunning coastal beauty and unforgettable experiences. Explore the Sydney Opera House, enjoy a revolving dinner above the skyline, cruise the harbour under fireworks and discover charming precincts like Manly and The Rocks. With curated guided tours, spectacular waterfront dining and prime access to Australia Day's most dazzling displays, this is the ultimate summer getaway.

$5,090 pptw
$895 single option



Highlights

- Exclusive Australia Day dinner cruise beneath the fireworks
- Dinner at Sydney Tower's SkyFeast with sweeping city views
- Guided tour of the Queen Victoria Building
- Walking tour of The Rocks
- Visit and guided tour of Cockatoo Island
- Ferry to Manly Beach and North Head scenic tour
- Visit and Tour of Sydney Opera House
- Time to explore at your own pace

Inclusions

- Pre and post tour transfers (ex Perth Western Australia)
- 10 meals
- 5 nights' accommodation
- Included sightseeing and attractions
- Professional Villa Tour Leader



Transfers
Courtesy pre and post home/ hotel transfers (Perth/Mandurah metropolitan areas)
A country collection service is also available

Transport

Meals

Tour Leaders

Accommodation

Attractions

Local Guides

T&Cs: All Villa tours are fully escorted, depart from Perth and tour prices include courtesy home collection (Perth and Mandurah metro only), most meals and attractions. Tours are subject to change. Full T&Cs can be found on villa.com.au or ask us to send them when you call.

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PAWA

The PAWA Committee welcomes new members who have an interest in being an effective voice of WA Probus Clubs.

Contact Secretary Margaret Collins for an invitation to attend.

pawasecretary@gmail.com

The PAWA Committee met on Thursday October 15th
at the Melville Recreation Centre, Cnr. Stock Rd and Canning Highway.

The next meeting is via Zoom on 5th November 2026

Website:
probuswa.org.au

Facebook:
Probus Association of Western Australia

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